



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander
President of the South Carolina Senate
State House, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-227, S. 428, which seeks to amend existing law so as to authorize—and, at least in certain cases, to require—the expungement of multiple convictions for passing or uttering fraudulent checks.

I vetoed virtually identical legislation in 2024. *See* Veto Message, R-177, S. 112 (May 21, 2024). For the same reasons, I am vetoing S. 248. First, employers are entitled to accurate records. They should, of course, understand any convictions in context and recognize when someone has paid his debt to society and has reformed his life. Second, expunging records encourages individuals to be dishonest about their criminal history. And third, fraudulent checks involve an intent to defraud, so it constitutes a crime of moral turpitude. *See* S.C. Code Ann. § 34-11-60(a); *State v. Harrison*, 298 S.C. 333, 336, 380 S.E.2d 818, 819 (1989). A fraudulent check is not simply a “bad check,” one honestly and inadvertently written on insufficient funds.

As I have said before, we can achieve both an accurate record of the lives that people have led and ensure that honest, willing South Carolinians can find a job that is right for them.

For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-227, S. 428 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Henry McMaster", written in a cursive style.

Henry McMaster